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Chairman: Mr. Busacca ..... (Italy)

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* Items which the Committee has decided to consider together.

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The meeting was called to order 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 103: Crime prevention and criminal justice (*continued*) (A/52/3, 295, 327, 357, 413 and A/52/447-S/1997/775)

Agenda item 104: International drug control (*continued*) (A/52/3, 127, 296, 336, 347, 413 and A/52/447-S/1997/775; E/1997/48)

1. **Mr. Oda** (Egypt) said that crime prevention and criminal justice were two basic factors necessary to guarantee the rule of law, national security and peace. Egypt therefore accorded those issues great importance in national policy. Under the Egyptian Constitution, the rule of law was not merely a guarantee of an individual's liberty but was also the sole basis for the legitimacy of authority. Furthermore, peace could only be based on justice. His Government believed that everyone had the right to security, and that criminal justice should be achieved through the proper legal measures. The Constitution stated that an accused person was innocent until found guilty in a court of law, and that he had the right to defend himself.

2. Egypt had always participated fully in international and regional conferences on crime prevention and criminal justice, and affirmed its commitment to implementing relevant international conventions and recommendations. International efforts were necessary to combat the global phenomenon of crime, particularly terrorist crime, which currently threatened civilians in every country of the world, as did economic, transnational and organized crime. He urged the international community to implement the recommendations of the relevant international conferences in order to promote security and stability throughout the world.

3. Although Governments had primary responsibility for setting priorities in the field of crime prevention and for implementing strategies in keeping with national laws and cultural particularities, more international cooperation and coordination was required. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme played a valuable role in coordinating activities and providing technical support and training. He therefore urged all States to ensure that the Programme had the resources necessary for the achievement of its aims.

4. The United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, as indicated in the Secretary-General's report (A/52/327), was making every effort to strengthen and coordinate technical cooperation among African countries. However, owing to the financial situation of the Institute, its survival was in question. He wished to endorse the appeal made by the Organization of African Unity to the African Ministerial Workshop on Organized Crime held in Dakar in July 1997 (ibid, para. 5) for member States to pay their dues to the Institute.

5. **Ms. Rozgoňová** (Slovakia) said that, since its inception, the Slovak Republic had been active in international cooperation to eliminate the illegal production of drugs and drug dependency. Her country welcomed the idea of convening a special session of the General Assembly on the question of narcotic drugs, which should point the way in the fight against drugs into the twenty-first century. An active approach by all Member States, supported by a broad media campaign and high-level representation, would ensure successful results.

6. Drug abuse had turned Slovakia, a transit country, into a user country. The drug epidemic was spreading over the entire country. Her Government therefore had established appropriate administrative and executive institutions and had started to harmonize its national legislation with the relevant international norms. The Ministerial Committee on Drug Abuse and Drug Control was the principal body for coordinating national and international anti-drug activities. A national anti-drug unit had been set up to combat drug-related crime, while the national programme to fight against drugs comprised a wide spectrum of legislative measures.

7. Slovakia, in keeping with Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/41, favoured the adoption of comprehensive measures to counter the illegal manufacture, trafficking and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants and their precursors. The spread of those drugs, particularly among young people, supported by easily accessible information on the Internet, represented a new threat which the international community should heed. Her Government was considering a revised draft law on precursors, providing for stricter prosecution for trafficking. In order to ensure cooperation among national judicial authorities in the fight against drugs, there was an acute need to harmonize legislation on the suppression of drug-trafficking and to ensure strict observance of the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

8. Slovakia was incorporating all relevant international legal documents on money-laundering into its legal system and was cooperating with the international organizations concerned. Effective cooperation and monitoring of international financial transactions was imperative. Her delegation appreciated the cooperation between the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on

Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and fully supported the establishment of the new Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention in Vienna. She supported the work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on the draft declaration on the guiding principles of demand reduction and felt that the draft declaration on strengthening international cooperation for alternative development programmes could be a good basis for discussion at the next session of the Commission.

9. **Mr. Martinez-Blanco** (Honduras), speaking also on behalf of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua, said that they supported the statement made by Paraguay on agenda item 104 on behalf of the Rio Group. The countries concerned were seriously committed to combating the scourge of drugs and were continuing to take the necessary measures, including legislation to punish drug-related offences, strengthening of the judicial system, cooperation with other countries in drug-control activities, accession to the relevant international legal instruments, and education campaigns. In July 1997, the Governments of six Central American countries had signed a convention against drug-related money-laundering in an effort to combat drug-trafficking.

10. An integrated approach and sustained multilateral action were essential in that regard. The countries of the Central American region supported the holding of the special session of the General Assembly, which, with the collaboration of the specialized agencies, should lead to initiatives to bring about a multilateral solution to the problem.

11. **Mr. Wilmot** (Ghana) said that he supported the establishment of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention to coordinate the work of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) and the Centre for International Crime Prevention (A/52/295, para. 114). His country had established a national office to deal with major economic crimes like money-laundering and stock exchange fraud. The success of that effort would depend to a large extent on how the Office and the international community were able to develop a mechanism for information-sharing and establish legal instruments to combat fraudulent transactions and confiscate the assets of offenders. Ghana had cooperated at the subregional level in preventing the export or transit of drugs and intended to pursue its efforts to combat drug abuse and traffic.

12. The United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders required financial resources to enable it to contribute meaningfully to anti-crime activities on the African continent. Accordingly, his delegation once again called upon donors to provide adequate funds for the Institute. He welcomed the enhanced capability of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme in providing technical assistance and supported the call for more donors to assist the Programme in coordinating and implementing its technical assistance projects. Ghana supported the proposal to establish a group of experts to elaborate a preliminary draft of a comprehensive international convention against organized transnational crime.

13. As a party to the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, his country had enacted laws to confiscate property linked to illicit drugs. A Narcotic Control Board coordinated the national anti-drug programme. Much emphasis was placed on preventive measures, including educational programmes focusing on young people. He noted the agreement reached between the Southern African Development Community and UNDCP to hold an expert group meeting on various topics of concern and hoped that that exercise would be extended to the West African subregion in the near future. Ghana also noted with appreciation the preparation of a technical cooperation project by UNDCP to strengthen the capacity of the OAU secretariat to implement its plan of action for drug control.

14. His delegation attached importance to the recommendations set forth in document A/52/296, paragraphs 8 and 9, concerning the need for advanced communications as a basic tool for law enforcement operations. The exchange of information within and between regions was vital for ensuring vertical cooperation in combating illegal drug-trafficking. He also welcomed the Global Programme against Money-Laundering initiated by UNDCP, in cooperation with the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division and attached great importance to the special session of the General Assembly on the question of narcotic drugs.

15. **Mrs. Sandru** (Romania) said that her country welcomed the establishment of the new Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention and the Executive Director's efforts to develop the operational aspects of UNDCP, setting clear priorities for the Centre for International Crime Prevention and ensuring adequate resources. Further consideration should also be given to enhancing cooperation between the Office and the other relevant partners of the United Nations system.

16. Romania had consistently sought to strengthen its legal machinery and develop preventive mechanisms and a humane criminal justice system. Since 1995, an interministerial council for combating crime had been set up

to formulate a comprehensive strategy in that field. The national anti-crime programme was aimed at updating legislation, training law enforcement personnel, developing a partnership between police and communities and organizing crime prevention educational programmes. Romania had concluded cooperation agreements with countries in Europe and elsewhere to promote joint crime prevention policies. Her Government considered the technical cooperation and advisory services provided under the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme most useful, and had benefited from such services aimed at institution-building and strengthening its capacity to fight organized crime.

17. In the plenary of the General Assembly, Romania had suggested the possibility of an international year to combat corruption and organized crime, an issue that could be discussed at a high level. She hoped that the appropriate modalities to implement that initiative could be found in cooperation with the Vienna Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention.

18. Like other Eastern European States, Romania lacked institutional structures for combating drug-trafficking. Accordingly, it valued highly all forms of international anti-drug cooperation and fully supported the holding of the special session of the General Assembly on the question of narcotic drugs.

19. **Mr. Al-Hariri** (Syrian Arab Republic) noted that crime and drugs represented serious obstacles to social development. Syria took great interest in the work of UNDCP. It was essential to strengthen basic aspects of the Programme such as the provision of practical assistance to States, coordination and international cooperation.

20. Syria was a party to the majority of relevant international instruments and played an active role in international crime prevention efforts. It had contracted numerous bilateral and multilateral agreements in such fields as extradition and money-laundering. Syria condemned terrorism carried out in order to achieve criminal ends, and allowed no one to carry out such terrorism in its territory. However, a distinction must be made between terrorism and a people's lawful resistance to foreign occupation. The Arab people of Syria and Lebanon had the right to resist the Israeli occupation of the Syrian Arab Golan and southern Lebanon, since the crime of occupation was in fact terrorism and should be considered a grave crime, that endangered the security of peoples and States.

21. In 1993, Syria had promulgated a law concerning the illicit use of drugs and had harmonized its national laws with the provisions of international instruments. It was a party to all the relevant international drug control conventions, and cooperated with specialized Arab organizations. Bilateral agreements were in force with a number of States in the region for the exchange of information on drug-trafficking, since Syria considered the problem of drugs to be a universal evil that called for concerted international efforts.

22. While fully supporting United Nations efforts in the field of drug control, Syria believed that the principles of national sovereignty and non-intervention in the internal affairs of States should be observed. No country had the right to evaluate the policies of another State for political purposes. Such measures harmed international relations and distracted attention from drug control. Evaluations must be carried out by the relevant international body, on the basis of national reports. The special session of the General Assembly would be a further opportunity to follow up international efforts directed towards drug control on the basis of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, respect for their sovereignty and direct responsibility for controlling that dangerous evil. He was confident that, given political will, United Nations efforts would be successful.

23. **Ms. Mesdoua** (Algeria) said that the drug problem was global, with no region exempt from a scourge that threatened the economic and political structures of many States. Even more dangerous was the hidden collusion among traffickers in drugs and weapons, money-launderers and terrorist groups. That was why a unified, sustained and innovative international effort was needed to avert the threat to the stability and economic development of States and to human rights. Thus, the universality of the United Nations made it the appropriate forum for coordination, and she welcomed the priority given to combating drugs, crime and terrorism in the medium-term plan for 1998 to 2001.

24. In that connection, she welcomed the fact that combating terrorism was one of the new tasks of the United Nations Centre for International Crime Prevention. However, it must be provided with the necessary financial and human resources.

25. The establishment of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) and its strengthening were the result of a universal awareness of drug-related problems; however, its voluntary funding rendered it dependent on the international community's degree of commitment, and so more resources were needed if it was to be able to meet States' legitimate concerns.

26. Algeria's geographical position had made it a favoured conduit for traffickers shipping drugs to Europe. The Government had therefore taken steps to suppress the illicit traffic. A national commission against drugs and addiction

had been set up, developing guidelines for all State organs and non-governmental organizations. A permanent government body to coordinate and promote anti-drug activities was planned. However, one country's efforts alone could never stem a tide that did not respect borders, and so Algeria had set up cooperation and information exchange mechanisms with some neighbouring States in Africa and across the Mediterranean, and was participating in the meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies and in other Arab and international arrangements.

27. The special session of the General Assembly on the question of narcotic drugs must not be a mere exercise in sterile debate; all Member States must make an all-out, determined effort to put the drug scourge in its proper place.

28. **Mr. Kumar** (India) said that the nexus between narcotics, gun-running and terrorism undermined the very foundations of society: narco-terrorism was the black plague of the present time, and democratic societies were particularly vulnerable. As the drug problem was transnational, the United Nations was the appropriate body to address the issue and coordinate responses, and the forthcoming special session of the General Assembly should provide the necessary international commitment, direction and momentum. As drug-traffickers and their collaborators respected no rule of civilized society, all countries must cooperate without reservation and with willing consent to extirpate them.

29. He noted that not all States were parties to the drug conventions of 1961, 1971 and 1988. Universal ratification of all three would make them more effective in combating the drug menace. India's commitment to the fight was total: its Government was a signatory to all three.

30. His delegation looked forward to the General Assembly's adoption at the forthcoming special session of a declaration on the guiding principles of demand reduction. To achieve demand reduction, civil society must become involved, with non-governmental organizations having an important role to play by working with Governments. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme should study how non-governmental organizations operated in developing societies in order to enhance its activities. Also, such a study would highlight the need to assist developing societies in improving monitoring methods, improving their use of the mass media, expanding information availability, conducting expert studies, carrying out specialized training, running treatment services and implementing rehabilitation and reintegration programmes.

31. Poverty and marginalization favoured drug-trafficking in developing countries, particularly by encouraging illicit crop cultivation. UNDCP should continue its alternative development activities, but there was also a need for international cooperation for socio-economic development programmes in affected areas.

32. India's main narcotics problem was one of transit because of its proximity to the "Golden Crescent" and the "Golden Triangle", with drugs flowing onwards, principally to Western Europe and North America, but to other parts of the world as well.

33. India had laws against drugs and drug-trafficking that also covered precursors, essential chemicals and the tracing and seizure of drug-related profits. The laws were being amended to rationalize their provisions and bring them into line with other international obligations, and a law was soon to be introduced in Parliament that would make drug-related money-laundering a criminal offence.

34. Extradition and mutual legal assistance treaties had been signed with nine countries, including some in the region, with negotiations to that end under way with another dozen.

35. Given the principal objectives of the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse and the Global Programme of Action adopted by the General Assembly in respect of improving field operations and upgrading expertise in drug law enforcement techniques, the Government of India had trained over 8,000 law enforcement officers at home and over 100 abroad, some with assistance from UNDCP. Those officers' services were regularly used in training programmes organized throughout India.

36. He noted that India was one of the few countries producing opium for licit purposes, and expressed his Government's support for the view of the International Narcotics Control Board that production should correspond to actual need: the Indian Government had taken a number of measures to monitor poppy cultivation and prevent diversion. In that connection, he welcomed opium importers' affirmation that they would continue to give preference to traditional suppliers of opium raw materials.

37. He drew attention to draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.14 entitled, "International action to combat drug abuse and illicit production and trafficking", of which India was a sponsor.

38. **Ms. Arystanbekova** (Kazakhstan) said that her delegation shared the opinion expressed by many delegations to the effect that the growth of organized crime and the increase in the illicit consumption of narcotics were essentially two aspects of a single problem that went far beyond national borders, and that eradicating it required

joint political, social, legal and economic efforts. Thus, whatever the political viewpoint of individual States, their awareness of the need for joint efforts must be a spur for international cooperation worldwide, lay the foundations for regional cooperation and have a degree of influence over national policy-making. The United Nations had a particularly important role to play in coordinating those efforts, along with the United Nations system and other international organizations.

39. The strategy for international cooperation based on the concept of joint responsibility was set out in United Nations documents such as the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime. However, although cooperation on that basis was developing quite effectively, it was her delegation's view that further efforts were needed if the Declaration's provisions were to be implemented properly: not only should international efforts be given additional impetus, there should also be, more importantly, tighter cooperation among all the United Nations specialized agencies, reinforcement of the financial and organizational capacity of UNDCP and the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, together with more involvement on the part of international financial institutions.

40. The special session of the General Assembly should look at trends, progress and shortcomings in the development of international cooperation on drugs, as should the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, to be held in 2000.

41. Given the importance it attached to strengthening regional cooperation in combating drugs and organized crime, her delegation welcomed the activities of the relevant United Nations programmes in Central Asia, which, for economic reasons, particularly needed the international community's help.

42. The legal basis for United Nations activities in Central Asia was a memorandum on cooperation between the five Central Asian States and UNDCP. The memorandum included plans for a regional drug strategy and had laid the foundations for more wide-ranging joint initiatives, particularly in strategically important areas such as frontier zones.

43. Regionally, cooperation with the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was developing quite swiftly. Successful seminars had been held on organized transnational crime and drug-trafficking, as had a training workshop for instructors in the correctional services with participants from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, thanks to the joint efforts of the Commission, the United Nations Development Programme and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

44. She expressed her delegation's gratitude to the Commission for the work of the United Nations mission to Kazakhstan to assess the needs of the criminal justice and prison systems, which had significantly increased Kazakhstan's crime prevention capabilities.

45. Kazakhstan had recently signed the principal drug-control conventions and was engaged in bringing its legislation into line with them: the Government had adopted an anti-crime, anti-drug programme for 1997-1998 that would unite the efforts of all government departments in putting international treaty provisions into domestic law. The final goal was not just to halt the growth in drug abuse, but to eliminate it, gradually but completely.

46. Kazakhstan was a member of the International Criminal Police Organization and other international law enforcement organizations and institutes, and was also developing bilateral law enforcement links: more than 30 such agreements had already been signed. Secondments had been arranged to the United States of America, Turkey, Pakistan, Egypt and other States, and her Government was grateful for the bilateral and United Nations assistance it had received in that regard.

47. As the closely linked problems of drugs, organized crime and money-laundering reflected social problems on a global scale related to living standards, degree of economic development and the like, eradicating them depended not only on combating their criminal manifestations but also, first and foremost, on ensuring general, sustained development, eliminating poverty and unemployment and resolving economic crises. The special session of the General Assembly should therefore be viewed not as a "one-off" event in terms of its subject matter, but rather as a logical continuation of a series of United Nations conferences and sessions.

48. **Mr. Vidaurre** (Bolivia) said that the Governments and peoples of the world recognized that drug-trafficking was a threat to the international community, endangering democracy, governability and public safety. The constant growth of the problem was closely linked to other criminal activities such as trafficking in weapons, money-laundering, terrorism, corruption and trafficking in human beings; it distorted the economy, corrupted institutions, endangered the health and moral integrity of citizens, particularly youth, and harmed the social fabric and the dignity of States.

49. The dimensions of the problem called for clear and effective responses on the basis of shared responsibility with full respect for the legislation of each country. In addition to national efforts, it was essential to promote and strengthen international cooperation through improved participation in programmes and entities of the United Nations system, and to improve interregional and bilateral cooperation. The necessary resources must be provided, particularly to help developing countries to play their part in what was an unequal battle. Resolutions adopted recently by the General Assembly and other international forums reflected growing concern among the international community. His delegation fully supported the decision to hold a special session of the General Assembly in 1998, which would be an invaluable opportunity to step up the struggle against drug-trafficking.

50. The international community was well aware of the efforts of the Bolivian Government to fight drug abuse, including the eradication of large areas of illicit crops, destruction of many clandestine laboratories, steps to penalize money-laundering, and numerous prevention programmes. His Government was determined to take Bolivia out of the international drug-trafficking circuit within five years, and for that purpose, had implemented a process of national dialogue among the various sectors of civil society, strengthening the political will to combat drug-trafficking and related activities; that policy required the cooperation of the country's entire population.

51. The national consensus arising out of that dialogue would provide the basis for a national plan to combat drug-trafficking, incorporating themes such as reduction and eradication of illegal coca plantations, review of systems of compensation for such eradication, institutionalization of alternative development, strengthening of capacity in the area of prevention, stepped-up frontier controls to combat the smuggling of precursors, strengthening of legal mechanisms against money-laundering, and promotion of awareness and education programmes.

52. The characteristics and magnitude of the scourge of illicit drugs were such that the battle could not be carried on through isolated efforts; committed action was needed on the part of all States, particularly those which had sufficient economic resources to carry on the fight.

53. **Mr. Pavelsons** (Latvia) said that the problem of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances was a major threat to the economies of developed and developing countries, and countries with economies in transition such as Latvia. His Government would continue cooperating actively on the international level, and strongly supported the decision to convene a special session of the General Assembly. Emphasis should be placed on demand-reduction strategies as a major weapon in eliminating drug abuse and trafficking, which should include prevention efforts in families, schools and the media, as well as efforts to detect and rehabilitate drug addicts.

54. Latvia attached particular importance to regional and subregional cooperation, and the three Baltic States cooperated very closely in that respect. A meeting of the Ministers of the Interior of those States, held recently in Estonia, had agreed to establish a coordination group to combat drug-trafficking. A conference on money-laundering, held in Riga in 1996, had led to the signing of a declaration on mutual assistance regarding money-laundering issues; it had been signed by the three Baltic States and also by UNDCP and the Commission of the European Union.

55. The transit of illegal drugs through Latvia had increased immensely over the past five years. Narcotics such as cannabis and opium moved from the Eastern European countries to the West, whereas synthetic drugs such as amphetamines moved in the opposite direction. The many pharmaceutical plants and scientific laboratories in Latvia and other Eastern European States, which were not working at full capacity, had the potential to begin producing narcotic and psychotropic substances that could be diverted to illicit markets. Latvia was deeply concerned about drug abuse among young people. As for the recent extensive media discussions about legalization of the so-called "soft" drugs, his Government considered that all types of drugs caused dependence, and that the distinction between "soft" and "hard" drugs was not a useful one.

56. The drug control system in Latvia was new, having begun in 1993 when Latvia had ratified the 1961, 1971 and 1988 conventions, and had started to harmonize its legislation with them. Since then, Latvian organizations concerned with drug control and drug abuse had accomplished a great deal. His Government was working hard towards the adoption of a national drug-control strategy that would define the major objectives and improve coordination among the ministries involved.

57. **Mr. Ahmad** (Malaysia) said that criminal activities threatened the safety and welfare of citizens and nations around the world. As criminals made increasing use of global networks and modern technologies, their activities became more sophisticated and international in scope. Given the cross-border nature of modern criminality, practically no State was immune. With modern and efficient communications systems linking the world, Malaysia believed that greater coordination was needed to combat international crime, particularly regarding illicit trafficking

in drugs and motor vehicles and smuggling of illegal immigrants.

58. His Government's efforts were hampered by constraints which included the diversity of legislation, chains of evidence spread over several countries, and the difficulty of securing witnesses from other countries to appear in Malaysian courts. Also, extradition processes were complex and time-consuming. However, Malaysia had taken steps towards regional and international cooperation among enforcement agencies. His Government welcomed recent initiatives to strengthen the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division, and to transform it into the Centre for International Crime Prevention. Malaysia also called upon donor countries and international agencies to provide adequate financial support for technical assistance projects in crime prevention.

59. Drug abuse and trafficking were among the greatest threats to mankind. When abused, drugs became a force of evil, destroying lives and jeopardizing the stability of nations. Malaysia had established a national drug information system to plan and monitor programmes for the prevention of drug abuse, and had adopted a prevention strategy focusing on education, public awareness and community action, and the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts. In 1997, Malaysia had hosted an international private sector conference on drugs in the workplace and the community. Malaysian non-governmental organizations and interest groups frequently held seminars and discussions to enable the Malaysian people, particularly teenagers and parents, to join in the Government's efforts.

60. Experience had shown that, in order to counter the drug problem, action must be taken in a coordinated manner and be directed from the highest political level. There must be commitment by the international community to fight the menace of drug abuse; otherwise it would destroy the fabric of society and destabilize nations.

61. **Mr. Tahir** (Pakistan) said that his delegation welcomed the decision of the General Assembly to hold a special session in 1998 devoted to the question of narcotic drugs, and supported the leading role of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) in multilateral efforts to combat drug-trafficking. However, recent decreases in funding of UNDCP activities by donor countries were a matter of concern, as the budget for that body was already inadequate to combat the enormous illicit drug industry worldwide.

62. Pakistan believed that a strong commitment by the international community to reduction of demand would be a key factor in dealing with the problem. In the light of the linkage between poverty and drug abuse, efforts by the international community to eradicate poverty would also be essential to combating drug abuse. Similarly, alternative development should be seen as an essential tool for reducing poverty and eliminating the illicit cultivation of narcotic crops.

63. As part of a comprehensive plan to implement the Global Programme of Action adopted by the General Assembly, Pakistan had taken measures to eradicate narcotic crops, eliminate drug-processing and trafficking, and treat and rehabilitate drug addicts. It had also established extensive enforcement mechanisms to counter the movement of illicit drugs through its territory. Pakistan was a signatory to the 1961 and 1971 conventions, and had set up a legislative framework to deal with a range of aspects of drug-trafficking in line with the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, to which it was also a signatory. It had also been active at the regional level, having signed the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Convention on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and undertaken to cooperate with neighbouring countries in combating drug-trafficking.

64. Pakistan attached great importance to the role of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and believed that the proposed consolidation of that Commission and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs into a single body ran the risk of reducing the war against drugs to a simple issue of criminality, to the detriment of United Nations efforts to combat drug-related activities other than drug-trafficking.

65. **Ms. Ramiro Lopez** (Philippines) said that there were a number of areas needing urgent attention by Governments and the international community in respect of international drug control: the need for more States to formulate national strategies aimed at reducing illicit demand and policies for treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration of drug users; eradication of illicit crops and promotion of alternative development; strengthening of mechanisms to control substances used in illicit drug manufacture; universal accession to and implementation of international drug control treaties; bilateral and regional agreements to facilitate cooperation in law enforcement, including judicial processes such as extradition; the need to strengthen the intelligence capacities of States for the suppression of drug-trafficking by land, air and sea; and the need for enactment of penal provisions on drug-related money-laundering.

66. A meeting of drug law enforcement agencies held in Manila in November 1996 had recommended specific

measures to counter drug-trafficking. The Philippines commended the focus adopted by UNDCP in developing a global approach to drug control, and particularly the strengthening of links between regional and subregional cooperation programmes. It was extremely important that Governments and civil society should support UNDCP in its efforts. Her Government was committed to that task, both nationally and internationally, particularly among the States members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations.

67. She suggested that a common format resembling the Global Programme of Action should be adopted for the Secretary-General's three annual reports — on UNDCP activities, on the Global Programme of Action itself and on the implementation of the relevant General Assembly resolutions. That would facilitate comprehension of the overall status of implementation of the Global Programme of Action and permit the formulation of more effective international drug policies.

68. As a follow-up to the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime, the Philippines would host a regional ministerial meeting on organized transnational crime in 1998. It supported the proposed programme of work in crime prevention and criminal justice for the biennium 1998-1999, and had established a legislative framework for concerted domestic action against criminality over the next five years. It also supported the Polish proposal for a framework convention against organized crime (A/C.3/51/7), and hoped to continue its participation in that effort. The Philippines favoured the establishment of a group of experts to begin elaborating such a convention.

69. She welcomed the proposed global study on trafficking in human beings. She also welcomed the elaboration of the Model Strategies and Practical Measures annexed to draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.6 as an aid to States in upgrading their responses to exploitation and abuse of women and children, and supported the elaboration of an international convention on the illicit traffic in children. She also joined other speakers in stressing the need for additional resources to be allocated to the Centre for International Crime Prevention.

70. **Ms. Camerano** (Colombia) said that Columbia had actively participated in the debates on the draft resolutions at the sixth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, which were recommended for adoption by the General Assembly. Her delegation had welcomed the adoption by the Commission of the draft resolution on international cooperation and assistance in the management of the criminal justice system, which proposed concrete ways to promote cooperation and technical assistance in that field. With regard to the draft resolution on extradition and international cooperation in criminal matters, Colombia shared the view that extradition was not the only important mechanism of cooperation. The non-extradition of a country's nationals was not the same thing as impunity; moreover, the rules and procedures adopted by States were sovereign and independent. Colombia was in the process of revising its constitutional provisions in that regard.

71. Colombia wished to participate in the setting up of the group of experts proposed in the draft resolution on international cooperation in combating organized transnational crime. The prevention and suppression of money-laundering were a fundamental weapon in that regard. The draft resolution on action against corruption was also of great importance; it was vital to promote preventative measures, strengthen international cooperation and increase technical assistance in order to combat the proliferation of corruption in the public sector in the context of commercial transactions. Colombia had enacted legislation to deal with public sector corruption and was a signatory to the Inter-American Convention against Corruption.

72. The topic of narcotic drugs was especially sensitive for Colombia, which in 1996 had allocated nearly 5 per cent of its national budget to the war on drugs. It had also enacted laws stiffening penalties for drug-related crimes and providing for confiscation of the property of drug-traffickers. It had entered into cooperation agreements with Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States on the interdiction of drug-trafficking, and its police and armed forces were pursuing the war on drugs within the country on a large scale. As a result of such actions, some six million doses of narcotics had been prevented from reaching the hands of consumers.

73. Colombia looked forward to the special session of the General Assembly to be held in 1998, and stressed the need to strengthen international cooperation against drug-trafficking on the basis of the principles of joint responsibility, coordination of action, and equality among States. More decisive action was needed on the part of the international community to reduce the demand for illicit drugs in the consuming countries, control money-laundering and the trade in chemical precursors, improve mechanisms for judicial cooperation, cooperate in the eradication of narcotic crops and strengthen the International Narcotics Control Board and UNDCP. Colombia was firmly convinced that the principle of joint responsibility was essential to preventing the heavy burden of drug interdiction from falling on the so-called producer countries, while demand grew unchecked in the industrialized nations.

The meeting rose at 12.25 p.m.